

HAER
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50-UTIC,
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NASH, WRIGHT AND COMPANY, GRAIN ELEVATOR
(Utica Elevator Company, Grain Elevator)
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor
Canal and Mill streets
Utica
LaSalle County
Illinois

HAER No. IL-95

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
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Location: Southwest corner of Canal and Mill
Streets
Utica, LaSalle County, Illinois

UTM: 16 E.331720 N.4578320
Quad: LaSalle

Date of Construction: ca. 1892

Builder: Unknown

Present Owner: Utica Elevator Company

Present Status: Destroyed in 1988

Significance: Although in use when photographed in
1986, the 1892 Nash, Wright & Company
elevator was destroyed in 1988; only two
canal-era grain elevators now exist
along the I & M Canal.

Project Information: The Illinois and Michigan Canal was
designated a National Heritage Corridor
in 1984. The following year HABS/HAER
embarked on an extensive inventory and
documentation project of the 100 mile-
long corridor. Field work for this
project was concluded in 1988. Final
editing of the documentation was
completed in 1992.

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons, 1985.

This grain elevator, the second to be built on this site, was constructed ca. 1892 for Nash, Wright & Company. The first elevator, built in 1880 by C. J. Gardner and A. T. Griffin, was of heavy timber construction with a steam-powered hoist and a capacity of 50,000 bushels of corn. In 1881 H. S. Gilbert & Company, the largest grain business in the county, acquired this property. After this elevator was destroyed by fire in 1892, Nash, Wright & Company built a new elevator on this site. Nearby, a weighing scale and office building was also opened at this time. Other owners of the elevator and office include the Dunaway Ruckrigel & Company(1901) and the Illinois Valley Grain Company (1909-1930s). In 1952 the elevator, then owned by Adolph Jessie of LaSalle, was sold to the Utica Elevator Company. From 1960 to 1986 the elevator was used strictly for grain storage. In 1988, the Utica Elevator Company demolished the structure, leaving only two surviving canal-era grain elevators along the I&M Canal.

The grain elevator was about five stories in height, including the cupola, and built of heavy timber post-and-beams construction with a limestone foundation. The exterior was clad with corrugated metal. Along the canal are remains of a rough-coursed limestone retaining wall which may have been part of a 1880s loading dock.

SOURCES:

Sanborn Map Co., Utica, Illinois (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1888, 1891, 1896, 1901, 1909, 1929).

A. Berle Clemensen, Illinois and Michigan Canal, National Heritage Corridor, Illinois: Cultural Inventory, History, and Significance (Denver: National Park Service, 1985), 51-4.

H. F. Kett & Co., The Past and Present of LaSalle County, Illinois (Chicago: H. F. Kett & Co., 1877), 333-7.

History of LaSalle County, Illinois (Chicago: Inter-state Publishing Co., 1886): 678-9, 691.

Interview with Mr. Roy Carder, manager of Utica Elevator Company, Utica, Illinois, July 1985.